REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated June 1, 2006 and is filed in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-10 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Snipp (U.S. 5,699,495) in view of Schwarz (US Patent No. 6,476,927).

Snipp teaches a method of storing printer resources on a network print server and downloading those resources to a client when they are needed. The methods of Snipp function within the confines of a local area network.

Schwarz teaches a token-based method for distributing a print job to a local network printer and selecting the local printer based on data in the print job token. The methods of Schwarz are limited to a local area network.

The presently-claimed embodiments of the present invention enable inter-network printing where a computing device on one network can print to a printer on another network that does not share devices in a traditional way. This inter-network printing is enabled by print system components on each network that communicate print task data and printer data between the networks. These methods and systems are very different from the methods of Snipp and Schwarz that are limited to a single local area network.

Furthermore, the combination of Snipp and Schwarz is improper as there is no motivation or teaching to combine these references. Snipp teaches a method of storing printer drivers for network printers on a network print server wherein a user selects a destination printer and the user's computer, via a generic print driver, sends the print job to a network print server and associated driver, which prepares the print job for printing on the selected network printer. This

is a method of distributing print resources onto a network print server, thereby off-loading print resources from the client computer.

The methods of Schwarz are completely unrelated to those of Snipp in that Schwarz teaches a method of automatic print job distribution wherein the print job does not even get sent to the print server. Using the methods of Schwarz, a token is sent identifying print job characteristics and the print server parses the job characteristics from the token and sends a printer address to the client. this address is then used to send the print job directly to the network printer.

There is not teaching to combine the methods of Snipp with those of Schwarz since the print job of Schwarz completely bypasses the print server where the methods of Snipp perform their function. The methods of Snipp are not even compatible with those of Schwarz. Regardless of the impropriety of the rejection, claims have been amended to more particularly point out aspects of embodiments of the present invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to comprise references to a "local network" and a "remote network" wherein devices in the local network do not have direct access to resources in the remote network. This limitation is not taught in the combination of Snipp and Schwarz.

Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1 and comprise all the limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 1.

Claim 20 and 22 have been amended to comprise references to a "local network" and a "remote network" wherein resources in the remote network are not shared with devices in the remote network. This limitation is not taught in the combination of Snipp and Schwarz.

Claim 21 is dependent on claim 20 and comprises all the limitations therein. Accordingly, this claim is patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 20.

The examiner has rejected claims 11, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Snipp (U.S. 5,699,495) in view of Goodman et al (US Patent No. 6,757,071).

Goodman et al teach a method of determining printer characteristics and matching a print job to the printer. The methods of Goodman require the devices to be in a local area network where the printer detector can communicate with the printers. Furthermore, the combination of Snipp and Goodman is improper as neither reference contains a teaching or motivation to combine the references. The methods of Goodman are performed in a client print driver, which has been otherwise modified and moved to a print server in the methods of Snipp. These two methods would require extensive modification to even be compatible and certainly do not suggest any obvious combination.

Claim 25 has been canceled for reasons unrelated to this rejection.

Claim 11 has been amended to comprise references to a "local network" and a "remote network" wherein devices in the local network do not have direct access to resources in the remote network. This limitation is not taught in the combination of Snipp and Goodman.

Claim 23 has been amended to comprise references to a "local network" and a "remote network" wherein resources in the remote network are not shared with devices in the remote network. This limitation is not taught in the combination of Snipp and Goodman.

The examiner has rejected claims 12-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwarz (US Patent No. 6,476,927) in view of Goodman et al (US Patent No. 6,757,071) and further in view of Snipp (U.S. 5,699,495).

As stated above in regards to the separate combinations, this combination is improper in that none of these reference contains a motivation or teaching to combine the references. Each reference performs a different function in a different way such that the combination would not be obvious to one skilled-in-the-art.

Claims 12-19 are dependent on claim 11 and comprise all the limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 11 since the addition of Snipp to the combination of Schwarz and Goodman does not teach the methods of claim 11 wherein devices in different networks without direct access are allowed indirect access via print system components.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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